



Contact

Rocky Mountain Institute

1739 Snowmass Creek Road
Snowmass, CO 81654-9199 USA

Tel: 970-927-3851, ext. 319

Fax: 970-927-4510

E-mail: kinsley@rmi.org

Our Mission: Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) is an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization that fosters the efficient and restorative use of natural, human and other capital to make the world more secure, just, prosperous, and life sustaining. We do this by inspiring business, civil society, and government to design integrative solutions that create true wealth.

RMI Research & Consulting:

Since 1982, RMI has worked with corporations, governments, communities, and citizens to help them solve problems, gain competitive advantage, increase profits, and create wealth through the more productive use of resources. The Research & Consulting team is grounded in RMI's unique blend of whole system thinking, integrative design, end-use/least-cost analysis, and an interdisciplinary knowledge of advanced technologies and techniques.

Research & Consulting provides an array of advisory services within—and more importantly, *across*—three service groups:

RMI Integrative Design Team (ID)

RMI/ENSAR Built Environment Team (BE)

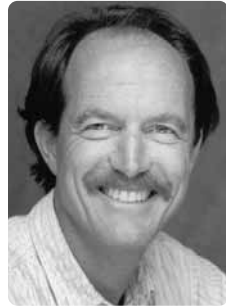
RMI Energy & Resources Team (ER)

For additional information, as well as a downloadable version of this document, please see our website: www.rmi.org

Michael J. Kinsley

RMI Integrative Design Team

Experience Summary



Michael Kinsley has been helping communities create sustainable local economies for nearly three decades. A skilled facilitator and consensus-builder, he has provided economic development planning and training to communities in forty states and four foreign countries. A member of the RMI Integrative Design Team, Mr. Kinsley is also author of RMI's *Economic Renewal Guide*, the definitive work in sustainable community development, and numerous papers used by communities to guide themselves toward economic renewal and sustainability. He is much in demand for his lectures on economic development, growth-related problems and their solutions, and sustainable local decision-making. His consulting work is backed up with years of solid experience as an elected official in a small community.

Relevant Experience

Rocky Mountain Institute, Research & Consulting, 1983–Present.

Mr. Kinsley joined Rocky Mountain Institute in 1983 and, with Hunter Lovins, founded the Institute's Economic Renewal program in 1984. His *Economic Renewal Guide* is a field-tested manual that describes how a few energetic people can help steer their community toward development that's sensitive to local values and the environment. His papers, published by RMI, such as "Grappling With Growth: What to Do When You Want a Strong Economy and a Great Place to Live," are used by communities across the country and around the world. Mr. Kinsley:

- Leads RMI teams that help cities find ways to regenerate local economies and environments.
- Designs and conducts community workshops to find practical, whole-systems solutions that fully consider the community, its economy, and the environment. Examples of issues addressed include local economy, land planning, and the siting of facilities.
- Consults with nonprofits, foundations, and governments, helping them design local and regional economic and community development programs.
- Leads whole-systems seminars for local and regional officials, teaching them to use RMI's practical approach to local decision-making, avoid unintended consequences, and increase public confidence in their decisions.
- Teaches the economic development planning process that is detailed in the *Economic Renewal Guide*.

Responses to these initiatives are positive. As a result of a 1996 Economic Renewal process, for example, residents of Indian Lake, New York, felt a compelling mandate to implement projects chosen during the process. Project leaders say that Economic Renewal defined, for the first time, the community's direction.

Michael J. Kinsley...

Education

University of Colorado/Harvard,
Rocky Mountain Program for Senior Executives, 1982

University of Southern California,
Environmental Management Training, 1972

University of Houston, B.S., Political Science, 1969

Affiliations

Snowmass/Capitol Creek (neighborhood) Caucus, president

American Leadership Forum—Rocky Mountain Chapter, board member

International Sustainable Indicators Network, board member

Aspen Ski Company Environmental Advisory Committee, member

Publications

“Framework for Community Sustainability, Ten Ingredients for Long-Term Success,” RMI, 2003

“Building Community Prosperity Through Natural Capitalism,” RMI, 2001

“Natural Capitalism on the U.S.-Mexican Border,” RMI, 2000, coauthor

“Critical Thinking for Sustainable Community Decision Making,” RMI, 2000

Economic Renewal Guide,
RMI, Third Edition 1997

“Paying for Growth, Prospering from Development,” RMI, 1996

Other

Western Colorado Congress, Pitkin County Home Rule Charter Revision Committee, Center for Conflict Resolution in the Roaring Fork Valley, Northwest Colorado Economic Development Task Force, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, Statewide Health Coordinating Council, Windstar Foundation, former member

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Pitkin County Commissioner, Colorado, 1975–85. Mr. Kinsley was a county commissioner in a small-town resort area for ten years. He implemented programs for affordable housing, growth management, environmental protection, and mass transit.

Environmental Task Force; Aspen, Colorado; 1971–75. Mr. Kinsley was director and sole staff member for this local advocacy group. He researched and developed position papers and conducted public meetings.